

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 MC-02 OMB-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 /129 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:PALMER:CUTLER:OSM

APPROVED BY AF:FOLEY

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O R 121605Z SEP 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:SALE OF SECOND DC-8

PARIS FOR COHEN

1. ON SEPT. 10, GOG AMB. MAVOUNGOU AND BONGO'S PERSONAL EMISSARY, UTA VICE PRESIDENT RICHON, MET WITH ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOLEY AND OTHER DEPT OFFICIALS. RICHON PRESENTED COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT BY BONGO TO THE SECRETARY PREVIOUS DAY AND NOTE VERBALE FROM GOG EMBASSY (TEXTS BEING AIRPOUCHED).

2. TELEGRAM (1) REQUESTED SECRETARY RECEIVE BONGO'S THREE EMISSARIES (BRU, PIGOT AND RICHON) IMMEDIATELY; (2) RENEWED GUARANTEES ON USE OF PLANE AS GIVEN IN GOG EMBASSY NOTE OF JUNE 28; (3) STATED GABON AS UN MEMBER FULLY SUPPORTS UN DECISIONS; (4) NOTED THAT BONGO HAD INFORMED "PUBLICLY" OAU AND AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE OF PROPOSED SALE AND RECEIVED APPROVAL; (5) EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THESE
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ASSURANCES COULD BE CHALLENGED AND DOUBTED BY GOVT OF A

FRIENDLY COUNTRY; AND (6) NOTED HARDSHIP CAUSED GABON BY DELAY AND REQUESTED IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE DECISION. NOTE VERBALE FOLLOWED SAME GENERAL LINES, BUT ADDED WARNING OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM FURTHER DELAY.

3. DURING CONVERSATION RICHON STRESSED DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE

BONGO CONTINUES TO PLACE ON ACQUIRING PLANE AND URGENCY OF NEED FOR QUICK DECISION. FOLEY EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF GOG'S POSITION BUT MADE CLEAR NO DECISION YET MADE AND HE WAS IN NO POSITION TO INDICATE WHEN DECISION MIGHT BE EXPECTED OR WHAT IT MIGHT BE. HE REMINDED RICHON WE HAD TOLD GOG MONTHS AGO WHEN PURCHASE FIRST RAISED THAT MATTER WOULD TAKE LONG TIME TO RESOLVE IN VIEW OF ITS MANY COMPLICATIONS. NUMBER OF US AGENCIES HAD ALREADY SPENT MUCH TIME ON THIS MATTER AND WE WERE DOING OUR BEST TO RESOLVE QUESTION. FOLEY EXPRESSED HOPE DC-8 ISSUE ALONE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT ADVERSELY US-GOG BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. DEPT NOW CONSIDERING RESPONSE TO BONGO'S SEPT. 9 MESSAGE AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ACTIONS TAKEN.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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